

GRIFFITH'S PLACE HARD BY SOME TELL

British Cabinet Considers Situation Created by His Death.

CONFIDENCE IN COLLINS

But Thinking and Balancing Power of Leader Will Be Missed.

Special Cable to The New York Herald.
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New York Herald Bureau,
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Who will take Arthur Griffith's place? That was the one thought which swept over London when the news of his death reached here. The situation had a part in the considerations of the British Cabinet meeting which was called to consider the reparations question. Premier Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and others who had dealt with Mr. Griffith during the long negotiations were as much moved by his tragic ending as any Irishman.

The Cabinet has the utmost confidence in Michael Collins, but it is plainly worried over the loss of Griffith's solid thinking and balancing power, which served as an admirable complement to Collins' brilliance and executive ability. Mr. Griffith did not inspire the wild devotion that Collins evokes, but he had the more solid regard and affection of those who knew him.

Solidity was the dominating characteristic of this small, compact figure, with his feet planted firmly on the ground, firm chin and eyes that twinkled but never wavered. The Free State literally is his own child. Through all the wild peregrinations of Irish politics and politics from the time he returned a quarter of a century ago, from the south of Africa to found, write, compose, print and circulate the *Young Irishman* and utter the motto of the Sinn Féin which has been echoing around the ears of Griffith has been solidly for independence within the empire. He saw Parnell, Redmondism and the Easter of 1916 was wane. The moment the empire of Cork by the Sinn Féin nationalists which seems the triumph of the cause which was peculiarly his, that moment he was stricken.

More Than the Brains.

Griffith has been more than the mind of the Sinn Féin during the phase since 1916. He has been its soul. That is what makes the gap caused by his death seem as if it could not be filled. Though his death leaves a gap in the affairs of to-day the man's personality will fill all one of the historic niches in the long line of Ireland's heroes, real and legendary. His greatness demands remembrance. Griffith never earned more than fifteen shillings a week until he came into actual political power. He cared nothing for money personally. During the London conference his friends had to search his pockets nightly to make sure that no five pound notes were thrown away with the note paper he had used to jot down memoranda. The very disinterested introspective concentration on the prime object of his life made Griffith's rare utterances of huge value.

He was frank, brusque, sometimes verging on rudeness, his staccato sentences seeming to come with difficulty from his habitually locked teeth, having more kinetic power than all the historic flowers of Irish oratory. This he set through the long discussions last summer. He spoke only when the trend of the discussion was from the line—his line. When he got what he wanted he signed the agreement, after he had signed he fought in the same way to justify his signature.

He got through the vast wilderness of the Dail sessions in January with his arms grimly folded and his mouth grimly shut. But when he spoke he spoke on the issue. Only once he lost his temper, and it was his shrill, Eranke Children into silence like a curse. He was one of the few politicians who told the truth or said nothing. Collins probably will succeed him as the titular head of the State, but if Griffith's influence and steadiness continues it will be through men like Mulcahy, Duggan, Desmond and Fitzgerald, trained in the Griffith school.

GRIFFITH'S LOSS 'FALLS HEAVILY ON IRELAND'

Lloyd George Wires Collins and Widow of Statesman.

LONDON, Aug. 12 (Associated Press).—The Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, has telegraphed Michael Collins, head of the Irish Provisional Government, expressing his deep distress on learning the Free Staters were nearing the city. Lloyd George's telegram said:

"My admiration for his single minded patriotism, his ability, energy and courage had grown steadily since I met him first less than a year ago. His character made a deep impression upon the British Ministers who shared with him in those unrelenting labors in which he was called upon to play such a testing and difficult part. His loss will fall heavily on Ireland, but I trust his work will go on to complete success."

The Prime Minister also telegraphed his condolences to Mrs. Griffith, saying, "I am certain Ireland will always reverence his memory as one of her most loyal, gifted and courageous sons."

LONDON PRESS PAYS TRIBUTE TO GRIFFITH

LONDON, Aug. 12 (Sunday).—The London papers publish glowing eulogies of Arthur Griffith. The *Observer* says: "His superior intellectual power and his force of character gave him a clear vision of the goal of nationality and of actualities to which the destiny of Ireland must be accommodated. He knew that there could be no real Irish autonomy unless it was founded upon industrial capacity and a stable social existence, which were both awaiting creation. None realized more keenly than he how empty must be mere fronts of the sword. A rare void will be left by the passing of this constructive genius and patient philosophy."

FORMER R. I. C. OFFICER SHOT AS THREATENED

LONDON, Aug. 12.—Major Neilson, chief intelligence officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary for four years, until its recent disbandment, was shot and dangerously wounded in a farmhouse lane near Ashburton, Devonshire, Thursday by gunmen, who made their escape.

The *Daily Mail* says Major Neilson last week was in Dublin and received an anonymous letter threatening him with death on August 11, that being the anniversary of the death of a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, who was shot by Neilson in self-defense. Returning to London, Neilson received another similar letter.

From London he went to visit friends at Ashburton, and while walking alone a band of three men held him up and shot him.

SINN FEIN LEADER CALLED 'THE SOUL OF THE REPUBLIC'

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a quarter of a century ago. At that time he was as insistent upon the right of Ireland to nationhood as scores of other leaders afterward became. With him on that publication were William E. Yeats, "A. E." and John Edington, and from that time until his death his connection with the so-called "intellectuals" of Ireland was close. He was one of the founders, probably the leading founder, of Sinn Féin, variously translated as "By Our Own Effort," "Our-selves Alone" or "We Ourselves." But even as the leader of that organization he maintained from the beginning, at variance with many of his more radical colleagues, that geographical and economic necessity argued strongly for some sort of connection with England.

One of the first of his principles as leader of the Sinn Féin was that Irish members should not attend the British Parliament. To do so, he argued, was in effect admitting the right of England to legislate for Ireland. But unlike many other leaders in a revolutionary Ireland he did not believe that Ireland should turn upon arms to achieve her goal. He did not deny the theoretical right of a subject people to resort to arms.

Never for Violence.

"It is because Ireland is to-day unable to overcome England on the battlefield," he wrote, "that we preach the Sinn Féin policy."

Although at various times Sinn Féin came to be closely linked with violence it was not that as founded by Griffith. It was essentially non-cooperation and not violence. When he was arrested they found no weapons of any sort in his quarters and he made no resistance.

Other writers collaborated with him in the production of the *United Irishman*, but it was his pen that filled the most of it. Many of his articles appeared under the name of "Cuguan," which oddly enough is not an Irish but a Kaffir name. Griffith got it from the natives when as a very young man he worked in the mines near Johannesburg, South Africa. It meant "the dove," or "the gentle one."

Up to the time of the Easter rebellion of 1916-Sinn Féin, with Griffith as its pamphleteer and prophet, worked for the development of Irish industries, the revival of national games and music and the preservation of the Irish language. The Easter rebellion, however, marked a new phase.

Griffith took no part in the uprising, but he was jailed when the wholesale arrests were made, and when he returned to Dublin the Sinn Féin movement had become identified with the insurrection. The leading survivor, Eamonn de Valera, had become the popular leader and Griffith was thrust for a time into the background.

Seven Months a Prisoner.

In October, 1917, Griffith was elected presiding officer for the opening of the Sinn Féin conference in Dublin. He later was nominated as Sinn Féin delegate from East Cavan. During the peace conference in Paris in 1919 he was chosen as an Irish delegate to present the Irish cause, but failure to get a safe conduct from the British Government prevented his attendance at Versailles. In July, 1919, Griffith was elected Acting President of the Irish National Assembly in the absence of De Valera.

who was in the United States to open the campaign for American sympathy and financial support for the cause of the "Irish Republic." In October of the same year Griffith was elected one of the permanent vice-presidents of the Sinn Féin organization.

Griffith was arrested in Dublin in November, 1920, and spent seven months in Mountjoy prison. During his imprisonment he continued to issue messages to the Irish people as to the conduct and policies of the Sinn Féin organization. An attempt was made to rescue him from Mountjoy prison, but the armored car used for that purpose proved inadequate.

The return of De Valera from America was attributed largely to the fact that Griffith was in prison. When De Valera returned to Ireland he took up active direction of Sinn Féin affairs.

Early in June, 1921, there were reports of a London conference, at which the Irish leaders would be invited to consult with members of the British Cabinet. Griffith was mentioned as a probable delegate, and his release from Mountjoy prison followed in the same month. Griffith accompanied De Valera to London in July, when the extended series of conferences was opened. Later, when the conferences shifted to various places, Griffith was appointed chairman of the Sinn Féin mission. He was in London through October, November and December, carrying on the negotiations which culminated on December 5 with the signing of the treaty between Great Britain and Ireland and which since has been approved by the British Parliament and the Dail Eireann.

Joined by Collins.

In the fight to have the Dail Eireann accept the treaty, Griffith and Michael Collins became the dominant leaders. They had to conduct a strenuous fight against the irconcilable element, chief of which was their former close colleague, Eamonn de Valera. In the recent military operations of the Irish Free State forces against the irconcilables, Griffith has taken little part, most of the operations being in charge of Collins as head of the Provisional Government.

Griffith was associated with many publications devoted to the cause of Ireland for the Irish. The first periodical, the *United Irishman*, was followed by the *Sinn Féin* and *Nationality*.

Irish writers have said that Griffith's greatest contribution to the cause of Ireland was not during the last few years, even though he did help to negotiate the treaty, but that his most important work was between 1909 and 1916. His contribution then was moral. It is pointed out that he had a resurgent people to deal with—a generation that was only beginning to emerge from the lassitude and shadow of the famine of the forties.

The Irish rank Griffith with Swift as a political pamphleteer. He knew the personalities and the principles connected with insurgent movements in many countries, and he was particularly well informed on the literature and documents of the American War of Independence. He frequently pointed out in his writings what Deak did for Hungary, particularly in one stirring pamphlet, called "The Resurrection of Hungary."

In the negotiations with the members of the British Cabinet it was upon

Arthur Griffith



Called the brain of the Irish movement for freedom, who died suddenly yesterday in Dublin, "A martyr to duty."

Griffith that the Irish delegates relied for their heavy artillery. He was always unruffled by those conferences, always steady and sagacious. He and Michael Collins, the latter younger, fiery and easy with banter, were regarded as an ideal team for conducting the difficult conferences with a hostile Cabinet, headed by such an able tactician as Lloyd George.

There was some Welsh in Griffith's ancestry, but it was remote. He was in the early fifties and was not more than 5 feet 5 inches tall. He was a composer by trade, and he used to get many of his own articles. How far he was pleased or dismayed by the fact that some other personality always seemed to have the color to hold the eyes and the enthusiasm of the Irish people, no one ever knew. From all that ever could be learned from his own lips he was not particularly ambitious and was content that his contribution to the Irish cause should be through his writing and through his calm advice.

HYLAN CALLS GRIFFITH A STEADFAST LEADER

Irish-American Sympathy Is Mingled With Concern.

Mayor Hyman called the following comment yesterday when told of the death of Arthur Griffith:

"Ireland has lost one of her greatest men in the death of Arthur Griffith. Always on the side of right, as he understood it, his rugged common sense and keen mental fiber exercised a strong influence in the councils of the Dail Eireann."

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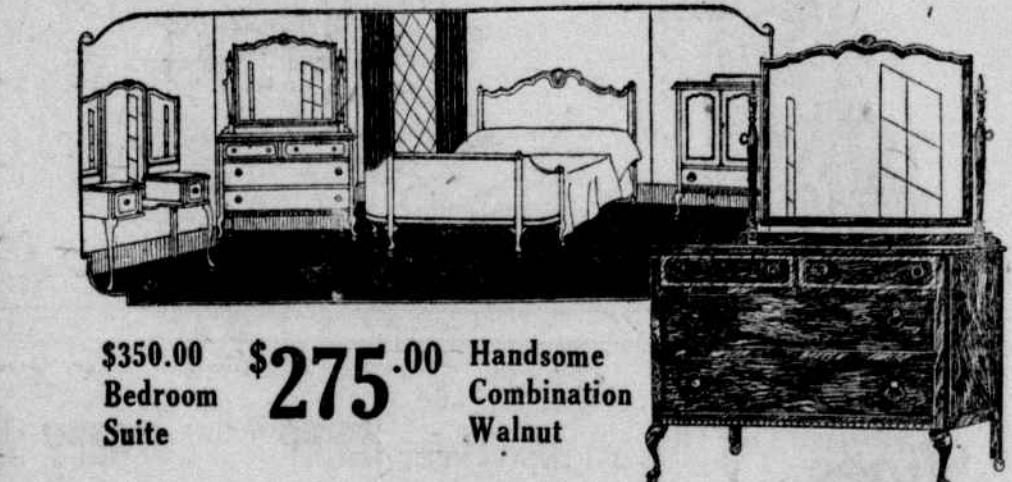
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ann. With intense vigor he strove to speed the day when justice and harmony might prevail. His leadership has been noteworthy for steadfastness for ideals, loyalty to convictions and unswerving devotion to country."

Most Irish sympathizers in the United States looked upon Arthur Griffith as the strongest, staidest and most dependable of the Irish leaders in the fight for permanent peace and prosperity for Ireland. In addition to expressing sorrow at his death the leading Irishmen in this city yesterday appeared apprehensive that the loss of his leadership would prove dangerous to the strength of the Irish Free State party.

Justice Daniel F. Cohalan, known for years as one of the most outspoken and radical of the Irish Republicans here, said last night: "I am sorry to learn of the death of Arthur Griffith. He was one of the greatest men of his genera-

tion, the father of Sinn Féin and a scholar of the highest type. Although he is gone I believe the work in Ireland will go on. His work and life will be an inspiration until Ireland gains her full independence. I know he felt that the Free State was only a step toward ultimate freedom."

Matthew G. Healy, who came to New York from Dublin last October and has since been in charge of the office of the Irish Free State organization at 411 Fifth Avenue, said: "News of the death of Griffith is, of course, a great shock, but, although he was our leader, I do not believe the effect will be far reaching. It is my personal opinion that he will be succeeded by Michael Collins as president of the Dail Eireann."

William E. Kelly, County Clerk of Kings county and head of the bond drive which raised \$550,000 for the Sinn Féin movement, said: "Mr. Griffith was indispensable to the Sinn Féin movement."

He was the great force, the fixed and unvarying strength behind it. His loss, to say the least, will cause confusion. It is pitiful that he should be taken away just as it appears that Ireland is getting on her feet and he will not share in what he fought for so valiantly. In my opinion he was as great a man as the history of Ireland shows in the last half century."

John Jerome Rooney said: "The death of Arthur Griffith is a great loss to Ireland and a great loss to the world. He was the author of native industry and the native language movement. Arthur Griffith was not a republican in the ordinary sense, as we understand it. He was not a member of the fighting force in Ireland; he was more or less a pacifist. In a special sense he was the genius of Irish Ireland. All men of Irish blood and men and women who love liberty throughout the world must mourn his death."

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